

REMARKS

Claims 1-69 are currently pending in the application and subject to an Election of Species Requirement.

The Office has identified two species of invention, with Species I including features shown in FIG. 7 and Species II including features shown in FIG. 8.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the claims that read on Species II. It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-53, and 55-69, reads on Species II.

Of the claims that read on Species II, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 17-31, 35-37, 40-49, 52, 53, and 57-69 also read on Species I. Each of these claims is, therefore, generic to both Species I and Species II, with independent claims 1, 22, and 47 being the most generic.

Upon allowance of the subject matter recited in any of claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 17-31, 35-37, 40-49, 52, 53, and 57-69, any claims that are withdrawn from consideration should be returned to consideration and allowed.

Information Disclosure Statements

Please note that Information Disclosure Statement were filed in the above-referenced application on May 30, 2001, January 25, 2002, July 25, 2002, and January 7, 2004, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received any indication that the references cited in any of these Information Disclosure Statements have been considered in the above-referenced application. It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements of May 30, 2001, January 25, 2002, July 25, 2002, and January 7, 2004, be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A that accompanied these Information Disclosure Statements be returned to the undersigned attorney as evidence of such consideration.

If any of the documents or any portion thereof is not available to the Office, the undersigned attorney would be happy to supply a copy thereof to the Office.

Preliminary Amendment

Also, please note that a Preliminary Amendment was filed in the above-referenced application on January 16, 2001, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received any acknowledgement that the Preliminary Amendment has been entered into the Office file for the above-referenced application. If, for some reason, the Preliminary Amendment has not yet been entered into the Office file, the undersigned attorney would be happy to provide the Office with a true copy thereof.

An early and favorable action on the merits of claims 1-69 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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